



Vol. 1 Issue 11

38th Parallel

A publication to remember, honor and thank the Korean War Veterans

Inside

- MIA survivor knows pain of Pentagon attack
2
- Seventeen veterans return home
3
- Russians can't believe Americans
3
- Happy Birthday Navy
4
- Blast from the past
6
- Veterans Day Parade in New York City
7



Staff Sgt. Stacy Merriwether

A veteran enjoys his day under the sun in Chicago during the city's Expo on Sept. 29. The city honored area veterans by presenting them with the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal.

Web page upgrades improve web site

The Korean War Commemoration Committee continues to enhance its web site. Visitors will soon be able to easily find Medal of Honor recipients on the "Hall of Honor" web page.

After clicking on the navigation bar marked "Hall of Honor," visitors could only find recipients listed in alphabetical order. Soon recipients can be found by state.

"Before if you didn't know the name of the person you are looking for, there wasn't an easy way to look up a recipient," Air Force Master Sgt. Sandra Johnson, committee webmaster, said about the old system of searching for recipients. "If you didn't know the name, you would have to go through each recipient in alphabetical order.

"By listing them by state, people

can locate Medal of Honor recipients much easier. This also helps commemoration partners locate recipients near them for future commemoration events."

By clicking on the state icon, viewers can see the place of birth as well as the branch of service and the rank of the servicemember upon earning the medal. Commemoration partners, particularly those that are not veteran service organizations, can look up recipients by state and hold an event on behalf of the recipient.

There were 131 Medal of Honor recipients during the Korean War. Most of the medals, 94, were presented posthumously. Most of the recipients were soldiers and Marines. All Air Force

Continued on Page 2



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Sister knows the pain of families of terrorist attack

ARLINGTON, Va., Sept. 26, 2001 — Eva Bernice Dunham knows the feelings of the families of those still missing from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. She's lived those feelings for 50 years.

From atop a hill in Arlington National Cemetery here overlooking the Pentagon, the sister of a Korean War MIA stood in a daze as she watched the black smoke fill the sky that sad day. She had been participating in a burial ceremony with the "Arlington Ladies," a group of volunteers that helps out at services.

"I heard the explosion and my first thought was of the atom bomb," she recalled. "I stood in amazement! We were preparing for our second funeral that morning. Navy Chaplain (Father) Lewis Brown said, 'We will go through with this,' and the family gathered around him."

Smoke filled the sky as the backdrop and sirens screamed throughout the services. Dunham said she thought

to herself, "God preserve us." Still stunned, with a blank feeling inside, she feels a concern for all the people — all the lost lives and those affected by the terrorists' horrific act.

More than 50 years have passed since Nov. 2, 1950, when Dunham and her parents were notified by telegram that her brother, Army Pfc. Charles Henry Lord Jr. of the 1st Cavalry Division, had been captured by communist Chinese forces along the Yalu River during the Battle of Unsan.

Lord died in POW Camp 5 deep in North Korea on July 22, 1951. His remains are still missing.

Ten days after the terror attack, Dunham attended the 22nd annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the national cemetery's amphitheater. "[The] service was beautiful, remembering all our POW and MIAs from past wars, and recognizing, too, America's most recent (losses)," the Jacksonville, Fla., native said.

Army Secretary Tom White, host

of this year's remembrance, said of America's obligation to a full accounting of its service members, "We must free families from the prisons of uncertainty."

Guest speaker Orson G. Swindle III, once a POW held by the North Vietnamese, said the families and friends of America's more than 88,000 missing servicemen from all wars deserve closure, a full accounting.

"They deserve nothing less, and that speaks volumes," said Swindle, a commissioner on the U.S. Trade Commission. "Never has it been more important than now to show our resolve, renew our commitment, during this current and future clandestine war.

"Families know firsthand the agony and suffering, the sacrifice, anger, frustration, the faded dreams," Swindle told the audience. "They tell us that life must go on, the grief will end, but these losses will forever change our lives." (by Peggy Marish-Boos, *Special to American Forces Press Service*)



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Web site from Page 1

Korean War Medal of Honor recipients were pilots. Two Navy pilots received the medal. The rest were hospital corpsmen attached to Marine units.

In addition to the "Hall of Honor" page, the Committee has added the "Veterans' Experience" web page. This invites more participation from veterans.

"It is very important for us to receive first hand information about individual veterans experiences so we can better educate the American public," Johnson said. "Educating the public about the Korean War remains one of our top priorities. Too many times people read about the various major battles that happened during the war, but a lot of things happened to the individual service members who served there that we have never heard of. That is what we are looking for—the

experiences that will give everyone a feel for what it was like to serve in the Korean War."

Veterans can input their experiences, by accessing <http://www.korea50.mil/history/remember/>. Once on the veterans' experiences page, veterans can input their experiences after clicking the link at the top of the page, Johnson said.

"Veterans must understand that any information that is submitted will be edited for grammar and readability," Johnson said, noting that the submissions in no way are the official view of the Department of Defense or the Commemoration Committee.

"We need these experiences to paint a complete portrait of the Korean War," Johnson added.

Remains recovered in North Korea

Remains believed to be those of 17 American soldiers, missing in action from the Korean War were repatriated in formal ceremonies Oct. 2. This is the largest number of remains recovered in a single joint recovery operation since U.S. teams began their work in North Korea in 1996.

The remains were flown on a U.S. Air Force aircraft from Pyongyang, North Korea, under escort of a uniformed U.S. honor guard to Yokota Air Base, Japan, where a United Nations Command repatriation ceremony was held.

Operating near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, a joint U.S.- Korea team recovered 14 remains believed to be those of U.S. Army soldiers from the 7th Infantry Division who fought against Chinese forces Nov.-Dec. 1950. Approximately 1,000 Americans are estimated to have been lost in battles of the Chosin campaign.

Additionally, a second team recovered three sets of remains in Unsan and

Kujang counties and along the Chong Chon River, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang. The area was the site of battles between Communist forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950.

The Defense Department's POW/Missing Personnel Office negotiated an agreement with the North Koreans last year which led to the scheduling of this year's operations.

The 28-person U.S. teams are composed primarily of specialists from the Army's Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI).

This year's schedule of operations in North Korea is the largest yet, with ten individual operations scheduled near the Chosin Reservoir, as well as in the Unsan, Kujang and Kaechon City areas. Twenty-five individual operations have been conducted since 1996 in North Korea, recovering 144 sets of remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers. *(from News Service Reports)*

Russians can't believe why Americans care so much

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany, Sept. 19, 2001 — Say "POW" or "MIA" and nearly every American will think of Vietnam. While many American POWs and MIAs were lost there, thousands are missing in Europe, China and the Soviet Union from World War II, the Korean War as well as from Southeast Asia.

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office has a section in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow called the "Joint Commission Support Directorate, Moscow". It's where Eurasian foreign area officers try to locate or otherwise account for Americans who went missing in the Soviet Union from World War II through the Cold War.

Foreign area officers are a select group of U.S. military officers with regional politico-military expertise and lan-

guage skills who work in a host country supporting peacetime engagement and forward presence.

Much of the FAOs' work involves research. They plow through archival documents, interview people who may or may not have pertinent information, and sift through whatever materials they can to glean anything that might help uncover the whereabouts of the servicemen or their remains.

Obviously, language skills are central to the FAO's work and absolutely critical for any hope of success. One word misread, one inflection not clearly discerned, and a possibly vital clue might evaporate. For many FAOs, their language and interpretive skills are developed and honed at the George C.

[Continued on Page 5](#)

This Date in History

Oct. 10, 1950: In a battlefield first, U.S. Air Force H-5 helicopter crewmen of the 3rd Air Rescue Squadron administered blood plasma to a casualty in mid-flight.

Oct. 8, 1950: The United Nations General Assembly authorized Gen. Douglas MacArthur to cross the 38th Parallel. ROK troops had already crossed on Oct. 1.

Oct. 8, 1952: Operation "Red Cow," a joint Navy-Air Force mission against enemy positions near Kaesong, was conducted with Navy F2H2 Banshee fighter jets from Task Force 77 providing fighter escort for Air Force B-29 Super fortress bombers. This was one of only two instances in the war in which Navy fighters escorted Air Force bombers.

Oct. 7, 1952: Eighth Army, including British, Australian, and Philippine units, relieved X Corps of tactical responsibility for the Seoul area. This action freed X Corps for operations on the east coast.

Oct. 6, 1951: Hill 931, the highest peak at Heartbreak Ridge, was secured by troops of the 2nd Infantry Division's 23rd Infantry Regiment after bitter fighting.

Oct. 5, 1950: Eighth Army issued its operations order for the movement across the 38th Parallel. Eighth Army anticipated strong resistance at the Parallel and a stubborn defense of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

Oct. 5, 1951: Having experienced heavy fighting to secure the central positions of Line Jamestown, the key Hill 477 was taken without a shot fired. Battle weary troops of the 7th Infantry Regiment were pleasantly surprised.

Happy Birthday Navy

The Navy that fought in Korea in 1950 was quite different from the service that was founded 175 years earlier on Oct. 13, 1775. Combat information centers on aircraft carriers replaced wooden ships with sails and no form of communication technology. Aircraft carriers, submarines, destroyers and other vessels meant the Navy could help the military patrol more than just the spacious seas. On the 226th anniversary of America's chief naval service, let's take a closer look at its involvement in the Korean War.

In the early morning hours of 25 June 1950, North Korean tanks and troops stormed across the 38th Parallel into North Korea in a sudden attack that took the world by surprise. In keeping with a subsequent resolution by the United Nations Security Council, President Harry S. Truman committed U.S. military forces to battle, and on July 3rd Valley Forge, in concert with the British carrier HMS Triumph, launched the first naval air strikes of the war, attacking facilities at Pyongyang. In this engagement, U.S. Navy F9F-2 *Panthers* scored naval aviation's first jet kills, shooting down two North Korean Yak-9 aircraft.

In the ensuing months, which included General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's brilliant amphibious assault at Inchon and drive up the Korean peninsula, through the eventual withdrawal and settlement into a stalemate, U.S. naval aviation made a

significant contribution to military operations in Korea. By July-1953, when the cease-fire was signed, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aircraft had logged 189,495 attack sorties, jets had successfully demonstrated their value in combat, and the helicopter had come of age as a transport and search and rescue platform. Most importantly, the aircraft carrier had demonstrated its value as a flexible platform for power projection in a limited war, a role that continues to this day.

Aviation

Though the Korean War marked the dawn of the jet age in aerial combat, propeller-driven aircraft like the F4U Corsair and AD Skyraider logged 75 percent of all offensive sorties flown by carrier aircraft. The Corsair lived-up to its World War II reputation as a tremendous close-air-support platform, while the "Able Dog" demonstrated its versatility in supporting troops or knocking out significant targets. In the latter mission it was greatly aided by the fact that it could carry as much ordnance as a B-17 Flying Fortress. Both aircraft flew from USS Valley Forge (CV-45) during 1950.



National Archives

With its varied ships and aircraft, the Navy served above, below and at sea level.

It was in the skies over Korea that naval aviators first took jet aircraft into combat. The two mainstays in Navy and Marine Corps jet squadrons were the F9F Panther, a rugged aircraft built by Grumman, and the high-flying McDonnell F2H Banshee.

Thach Weave

One of history's most famous fighter tacticians and originator of the famed "Thach Weave," Capt. John S. "Jimmy" Thach commanded USS Sicily (CVE-118) off Korea during 1950-1951. During this tour of duty he turned his attention to studying the tactics of close air support. This speech, which was delivered by Thach in November 1950, details Marine Corps close air support missions flown from the flight deck of Sicily during the early months of the Korean War.

Helicopters

Introduced to naval aviation during World War II by the U.S. Coast Guard, the helicopter earned its stripes in Korea, performing a variety of tasks ranging from combat search and rescue to spotting naval gunfire to transporting troops and supplies.

HO3S helicopters of HU-1 operated in detachments on board U.S. Navy carriers and other vessels throughout the Korean War. Whether as plane guards plucking fliers from the water after a launch or landing

Nature's elements did not stop the Navy from serving in Korea. Here a 40mm gun mount on the USS Oriskany is covered with snow.



National Archives

accident or rescuing downed pilots over hostile territory, they performed heroic service. In fact, the first helicopter pilot to receive the Medal of Honor, Lieutenant (junior grade) John Koelsch, flew the HO3S.

In Korea the Sikorsky HRS demonstrated how the helicopter could change the face of a battlefield. On September 13, 1951, under the codename Operation Windmill I, HRS helicopters of HMR-161 flew history's first combat resupply mission, delivering 18,848 lbs. of cargo to ground troops over seven miles of rough terrain. Eight days later, this time as part of Operation Summit, the squadron carried 224 troops and 17,772 lbs. of cargo in relief of Republic of Korea troops on Hill 884. It was the first helicopter landing of a combat unit in history.

Corsair rescue

The Navy took delivery of the first production models of the F4U Corsair on Oct. 3, 1942. Over the course of the next ten years, until the last example rolled off the Chance-Vought assembly line in Dallas, Texas in December 1952, the aircraft would live up to its nickname, though as a "swift ship" its domain was the clouds rather than the sea. During World War II, Corsair pilots downed 2,140 Japanese aircraft, achieving a kill ratio of 11:1. Additionally, ten Communist aircraft fell to F4U guns during the Korean War, including a MiG-15 jet fighter.

Lasting Fame

Maj. John H. Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth, served as a Marine Corps fighter pilot with VMF-311. Glenn's wingman on some of his missions in Korea was Boston Red Sox slugger Ted Williams, a Marine reservist recalled to active duty.

Glenn's final duty in Korea was as an exchange pilot with the U.S. Air Force, in which capacity he shot down three enemy MiG-15 fighters in just nine days. His squadronmates nicknamed him the "Mig Mad Marine," which was emblazoned on the fuselage of his F-86 *Sabre*.

In addition to Glenn and Williams, Ensign and future astronaut Neil Armstrong flew the F9F. (*Historical Information courtesy of National Museum of Naval Aviation*)

Crewmen stack empty powder cases near a 5 inch gun mount aboard the USS MISSOURI, BB-63, during naval bombardment of Kansong.



National Archives

Navy Notes

Did you know ...

The first African-American Master Diver in the Navy, Carl Brashear, entered diving school during the Korean War.

The first African American pilot to die in combat Ensign Jesse Brown, flew during the Korean War.

Seven Medal of Honor recipients fought in the Korean War. While most were hospital corpsmen, Capt. Thomas Hudner, an aviator, earned his medal trying to save Ensign Jesse Brown.

Russians from Page 3

Marshall European Center for Security Studies here.

Among the FAOs in Russia searching for POWs and MIAs is Army Capt. David Willis. A native of Olympia, Wash., Willis is a Marshall Center student. He says that working to help find missing Americans is one of the most

gratifying things he has ever done.

"Being a part of the team [to find missing Americans] is such a great honor," Willis says. He finds the Russians he talks to cooperative and forthright.

"Every one of the Russians I've met has, to a man, expressed great admiration and even shock that Americans care so much about their own and go to such

great lengths to recover their fallen comrades," Willis said. "They can't believe that even after all this time, we care so much."

National POW-MIA Recognition Day was Sept. 21. (*By Lt. Cmdr. Curtis Jenkins, USNR from a George C. Marshall Center news release.*)

Blast from the Past ...

YAKKITY-YAKKING THEIR WAY TO BIG TIME TV



AI JA

MIN JA

SOOK JA

The Musical Kim Sisters, Three Charmers from Korea

By ROBERT ANDERSON

■ The Kim sisters, a trio of lovely Korean girls, are determined to dance and sing their way into the hearts of American audiences. So far, their campaign has been highly successful. They've been seen twice on the Ed Sullivan show and once on the Dinah Shore show since they came to the United States a year ago, and Sullivan has signed them for two more programs.

They've also been kept busy in night clubs such as the Moulin Rouge in Hollywood, the Thunderbird in Las Vegas, and the Edgewater Beach hotel in Chicago.

Part of a famous Korean musical family, their father, a conductor and composer, was killed by the Communists in 1950 and their mother is a popular singer, the sisters taught themselves American songs from phonograph records. They started their act entertaining American troops in Pusan in 1952.

Sook Ja, 21, is the oldest and the spokesman for the trio. The other girls are Ai Ja, 20, and Min Ja, 18. Each plays five or six instruments in addition to dancing and singing. They do some Korean national songs, but the numbers that really make a hit with the audiences are

their renditions of "Yakkity Yak," "Bill Bailey," "Baby Face," "Four Leaf Clover," "Sentimental Journey," and "Up the Lazy River."

■ The thing they like most about America, Sook Ja [Sue] said, is that they work with good hands and have plenty of opportunities to rehearse. "We rehearse all the time. We do not date men, because our mother said before we left, 'Do not date men. After you are a big success there is plenty of time for men.' Men like us too. In Las Vegas we worked from 1 a. m. to 6 a. m. and one man watched our show all night every night for months."

For recreation the girls like to watch TV. Sue's favorite program is The Rifleman, Ai Ja's is 77 Sunset Strip, and Min Ja's is the June Allyson show. Their big ambition is to get into movies and live in Hollywood.

Next summer they plan to return to Korea and bring their mother back as part of the act for a concentrated campaign in the entertainment world. They also may bring along their four brothers, who have their own dancing, singing, and instrumental act.

Article courtesy of Frank Pastore

Korea

A face stared out at me, unbeknownst to them its eyes claimed no identity its features garnered familiarity solely for their show of base emotion, raw and weary.

But its expression spoke so beautifully and simply as if the ravage of war had stripped away all means (or will) for creating a façade of SELF serenely gazing with a look that pierced and radiated simultaneously...

Neither pleading nor denying, full of wonder but not inquiry seeming to care but (I could not tell if he had still the yearn to know what greater, formal cause had brought him here.) resigned to fight yet burning up with the desire to know why.

Asking a question I could not answer.

My heart goes out to victims and veterans of this war, about which I know so little. Thanks to all the noble men and women who protect our country, and God bless America.

-A. Gaul

Gaul is a high school student from North Carolina.



Courtesy photo

In remembrance

For the entire commemoration period, all POW/MIA highways in Monroe County, N.Y., were additionally designated as “Korean War Commemorative Highways.” The Ely/Fagan American Legion Post 1151, led by Wendell Schillinger, a three-time Purple heart recipient in the Korean War, petitioned the Monroe County Legislature to achieve this.

In the spirit

Lydia Lusk, Sandy Hopkins and Vicki Beckley from the American Veterans Post 1996 in Jamestown, N.Y., sing “Stagedoor Canteen” in the bandshell of New York City’s Central Park during the Nations Day Parade on Nov. 11, 2000. The United War Veterans Organization plans on hosting another parade on Veterans Day this year. For more information call 212-693-0157.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

HONOR ROLL



Francis C. Hammond

Rank: Hospital Corpsman

Organization: U.S. Navy, attached as a medical corpsman to 1st Marine Division.

Place and date: Korea, March 26-27, 1953.

Entered service at: Alexandria, Va.

Birth: Alexandria, Va.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Medical Corpsman serving with the 1st Marine Division in action against enemy aggressor forces on the night of March 26-27, 1953. After reaching an intermediate objective during a counterattack against a heavily entrenched and numerically superior hostile force occupying ground on a bitterly contested outpost far in advance of the main line of resistance. Hospitalman Hammond's platoon was subjected to a murderous barrage of hostile mortar and artillery fire, followed by a vicious assault by onrushing enemy troops. Resolutely advancing through the veritable curtain of fire to aid his stricken comrades, Hospital Hammond moved among the stalwart garrison of Marines and, although critically wounded himself, valiantly continued to administer aid to the other wounded throughout an exhausting 4-hour period. When the unit was ordered to withdraw, he skillfully directed the evacuation of casualties and remained in the fire-swept area to assist the corpsmen of the relieving unit until he was struck by a round of enemy mortar fire and fell, mortally wounded. By his exceptional fortitude, inspiring initiative and self-sacrificing efforts, HC Hammond undoubtedly saved the lives of many marines. His great personal valor in the face of overwhelming odds enhances and sustains the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

